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Message Text

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73
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SS-15 CPR-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

/056 W
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R 140720Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4797

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 4116

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, CH, US
SUBJECT: COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES ON DEATH OF MAO

REF: STATE 223128

1. PREDICTABLY, WE WERE OMITTED FROM CIRCULAR NOTE INVITING SIGNATURE OF CONDOLENCE BOOK. ON BASIS OF PARA 3 REFTEL, HOWEVER, AND A FEW RECENT INDICATIONS THAT CHINESE MISSION BEHAVING IN SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED MANNER TO US, WE ASKED EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR SEPTEMBER 10 TO INDICATE IN LOW KEY OUR WILLINGNESS TO SIGN BOOK. WE ASKED EGYPTIAN TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE WERE NOT SOLICITING SPECIAL INVITATION BUT THAT WE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND CONDOLENCES IF GESTURE WOULD NOT CAUSE PRC EMBASSY ANY PROBLEMS.

2. EGYPTIAN CALLED BACK SEPTEMBER 10 TO SAY PRC AMBASSADOR HAD ASKED HIM TO RELAY HIS GRATITUDE FOR OUR INITIATIVE AND CONCERN. AS TO SPECIFIC QUESTION OF WHETHER CHARGE SHOULD SIGN BOOK, HOWEVER, PRC AMBASSADOR WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH. WHATEVER CONSULTATIONS THIS ENTAILED WERE COMPLETED BY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 13 WHEN PRC AMBASSADOR INFORMED EGYPTIAN THAT HE WOULD BE PLEASED IF CHARGE SIGNED. ACCORDINGLY WE HAVE SIGNED BOOK AFTER BEING RECEIVED
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WITH DUE SOLMNITY BY CHINESE AMBASSADOR WHO, THROUGH

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INTERPRETER, EXPRESSED THANKS FOR WHAT WE HAD DONE.

3. PRESIDNET KOUNTCHE SIGNED BOOK WITH FANFARE SEPTEMBER 10. ASIDE FROM ELABORATE MOURNING ARRANGEMENTS AT CHINESE EMBASSY THERE ARE NO SPECIAL EVIDENCES OF ACTIVITY ON EITHER PRC OR GON SIDES IN CONNECTION WITH MAO'S DEATH. THERE HAFCOF COURSE BEEN HEAVY SATURATION OF PRESS AND RADIO -- WHICH NOW IS LEVELLING OFF -- BUT COVERAGE HAS BEEN BIOGRAPHIC AND HISTORICAL RATHER THAN OVERTLY PROPAGANDISTIC IN TONE.

DAVISON

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